

ABSTRACT

Title: Biographical Study of Jan Železný's Sports Career

Student: Jan Volf

Supervisor: PhDr. Aleš Kaplan, Ph.D.

Aim: To monitor, describe and evaluate a course of sports career of Jan Železný within a biographical study

Methods: This diploma thesis consists of 4 main steps. At first I had to process all newspaper articles within last 20 years concerning Jan Železný. I used a newspaper called Mladá Fronta (later renamed MF Dnes) as my main and only source. I processed number of articles published each year, categorized them according to set criteria and traced a frequency of various journalists reporting on Jan Železný during last 20 years.

Secondly, I processed athletic career of Jan Železný in particular years and Jan Železný added a brief commentary on each year. Thirdly, I focused on processing Železný's replies made during our accurately driven conversation.

Finally, I worked out a detailed summary of Jan Železný's biggest sports successes and performances.

Results: In this diploma thesis I managed to monitor, describe and evaluate Jan Železný's extraordinary sports career with the help of available documents and information. I compiled 766 newspaper articles in total, studied their content and processed them statistically. Then I described sports career of Jan Železný in details and included a written version of our accurately driven conversation. I would like to point out to some results of my survey. In term of categorization of newspaper articles containing Jan Železný there was the biggest number of them reporting on Železný's participation in various sports and/or social events. At the beginning of his career journalists were not very interested in his sports achievements. The breaking point came in 1993 when Železný broke the world record in javelin throw and became a world champion for the first time.

Železný took part in 246 competitions during his sports career and he won 149 of them. He surpassed a 90 meter limit for 54 times in total and he achieved that 47 times before he seriously hurt his shoulder in 1998.

During his sports career Železný was both an Olympic Champion and World Champion for three times and he improved the world record for five times.

Key words: Biographical study, phenomenon, Jan Železný, sport, athletics, javelin throw, success, victory